(d) in what manner the issues raised by the Spice Board were accommodated in the FTAs?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. While negotiating Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) Government takes a number of steps to protect the interest of domestic as well as export oriented industry and farmers. These include keeping the items to which the domestic industry and farmers are sensitive, in the Negative List. On such items limited or no tariff concession are granted to the trading partner. Such list are prepared after consulting all stake holders which include the Boards as well as the Apex Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Industry Association, etc. In so far as India-ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement is concerned inputs were obtained from the Spices Board and considered while finalizing the Agreement. Most of the spices are included in India's exclusion List(Negative List). The Cabinet while approving the Trade in Goods Agreement has set up a Group of Minister(GoM) to recommend appropriate measures including structural reforms in vulnerable areas including Tea, Coffee, Spices etc.

Road safety funds

*199. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the items on which "Road Safety" funds accruing from "Excess in target traffic" from Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Toll roads are spent;

(b) what was the total corpus of "Road Safety" Fund, State-wise;

(c) whether any part specifically is being allocated towards giving immediate monetary relief to serious accident victims or dependants of fatal victims on highways; and

(d) if so, how many such victims or their dependants were so compensated during 2007 and 2008?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) In respect of projects where the Concession agreement for Build, Operate on Transfer (BOT) Toll road projects have the provision for revenue sharing in the event of traffic exceeding the target traffic, such revenue is utilized *inter alia*, for meeting the cost and expenses on works and services not covered in the scope of the concession agreement but which arise out of safety requirements based on safety audits of the project highway carried out by the Safety Consultants appointed by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

(b) No fund has been generated in NHAI.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.